

# CHICAGO EXTRA.

CHICAGO, TUESDAY, OCT. 10, 1871.

## THE EVENING POST

Will be found

THIS AFTERNOON,

AT  
95 & 97

West Randolph st.

And regularly thereafter,

From our Yesterday's Edition.

## CHICAGO IN FLAMES.

An All-Night Carnival of the Fire Fiend!

The Most Extensive and Devastating Conflagration of the Nineteenth Century!

A Fire Originates in the West Division, Destroys Several Acres of Buildings, Crosses the South Branch to the South Division, Sweeps through the business heart of the City, Leaps the Main River, and Lays Waste the Entire North Side!

Dwellings, Churches, Railroad Depots, Gas Works, Banks, Telegraph Offices, the Armory, Court House, All the Prominent Hotels and Theatres, Newspaper Establishments, the Opera House, Water Works, and Business Blocks of every description involved in common ruin.

Thousands of Families Turned out of Doors.

Thousands of Employees thrown out of Employment.

A NIGHT OF HORROR NEVER BEFORE EQUALLED ON THE CONTINENT.

The Loss of Property Beyond Computation.

NUMEROUS LIVES LOST.

The Further Supply of Water Cut Off, and the Flames Still Raging.

Scenes, Incidents, Accidents, &c., &c.,

It becomes the sad mission of the Post to chronicle the particulars of the most extensive, destructive and

appalling conflagrations that ever visited Chicago, or indeed any other city on the American Continent. Persons among the city who read the head lines over this article may at first feel inclined to think them an exaggeration, but a more intimate knowledge of the facts in the case will satisfy any one that instead of exaggerating the catastrophe we have not half done it justice. No written description or report of the appalling calamity can convey to people who are not here to see for themselves, an adequate idea of the scenes of last night and to-day in this ill-fated city. The most vivid imagination cannot possibly paint a picture that will equal the reality. It is only once or twice in a lifetime that any person can witness such scenes as have been too visible in Chicago since nine o'clock last evening. They are enough to appall the stoutest heart, and unnerve the most resolute men in the community.

Without further preliminaries of general observations we will proceed to give as many of the particulars of this awful calamity as can be crowded into the limited space of our column.

We need not occupy room in recounting the particulars of the great fire which occurred on Saturday night—and which the public thought a terrible disaster—for the one of last night and today throws that into insignificance. The first mentioned was a great fire—destroying about twenty acres of buildings and lumber piles, on the West Side, between Clinton, Adams and Van Buren streets, and the South Branch, and involving the loss of several lives. The scene of that conflagration was visited yesterday by countless thousands of spectators, who reviewed the scene of desolation with manifold sadness, little dreaming, however, that a similar disaster was in store for the city so soon, coupled with which that of Saturday night was no but the crackling of a juvenile bonfire.

At about nine o'clock last evening, flames broke out in a small barn on Fairbank street, near Jefferson, in the West Division, about 1/2 of a mile from the South Branch of the river. How those flames originated, we do not know, though rumor has it that they were the result of incendiarism and also that they sprang from a carelessly used pipe or cigar. Be this as it may, the fire soon spread, to adjoining buildings, and in a few moments more the entire department was called out. A more unfavorable time to check and extinguish a fire, has never been known in this city. The weather has for weeks been unusually dry, and becoming drier every day. All the buildings were parched up, and in a fit condition to be consumed like tinder. A strong wind amounting to quite a gale, was blowing from the southwest, and the rapidity with which the flames spread, in a northerly direction, was fearful. Despite the most vigorous efforts of the fire department, the "wild flames" leaped from roof to roof and building to

building, rapidly enveloping block after block in their consuming career. The efforts of the firemen were down and failed as they were by the previous night's rains; toll—seemed utterly inadequate to stay the onward career of the devouring element, and ere long it became apparent that the city was doomed to suffer the most appalling visitation of the fire fiend that it had ever experienced. By the continued efforts of firemen, policemen and citizens the flames were kept from moving farther west than Desplantes street, and while the "great disaster" of the Saturday night checked the fire from going further north on that side of the river, then Van Buren street broke, which moment was really a consummation. But after taking all the buildings, lumber piles, &c., within the area above, the conflagration broke out afresh on the east side of the river. This sudden transfer of the devouring flames to the South Division was the result of the large showers of sparks and cinders which were carried across the stream by the gale, many of them landing on wooden roofs, close awnings, and other combustible material, and soon creating a new flame which sent conflagration to many a brave heart.

By this time nearly the entire population of the city had been aroused, and the streets for a mile or two surrounding the scene of the disaster were thronged with excited, wailing humanity, and with all descriptions of vehicles, pressed into service. The heavy arrival of household goods and personal effects. Every street resembled a scene of confusion and confusion. All furniture, stores, and unladen here there and everywhere, in promiscuous confusion. Irretrievable losses were carried away on improvised ambulances; aged women and helpless children were borne to places of temporary or permanent safety; people who were utterly overcome with excitement and fatigue were seen sleeping on benches, trunks and tables in the street; empty houses were forcibly broken open and taken possession of by homeless wretches, made desperate by the awful surroundings; some instances in many of families tumbling into one and the same house. Such a spectacle was never before witnessed in Chicago, and it hardly has a parallel in the annals of conflagrations.

After getting under complete headway in the South Division, the flames swept with terrible rapidity, and soon many of the most valuable structures in that Division were involved in the general conflagration.

At about two o'clock in the morning the armory, a large stone building on the corner of Adams and Franklin streets, was reached, and ere long, from this structure the cinders caught the South Side Gas Works, on the opposite side of Adams street. The destruction of this vast reservoir of gas, coal and coke was fearfully rapid, while the explosion created at frequent intervals sounded like the roar of artillery.

By this time, it was evident that the fire department could make no headway in warding off the conflagration, and that the flames were bound to have it all their own way. Building after building, and block after block, were reached by the devouring element, and it seemed as if the entire city was doomed. Every church, huge railroad depot, massive viaduct, vast yards of coal and lumber, palatial mansions, elegant business blocks—in short every species of structure not absolutely fire-proof—and there is scarcely one left in turn destroyed by the remorseless flames, were speedily transformed into a mass of black ruins. The many thousands of spectators who stood at the Madison street bridge, and at other points on the

West Side of the river, and the East Side, and on the South Side, extended to the river, and the South Branch to the Lake, were all there to get the awfully grand and thrilling spectacle. It was something more than a large congregation which they gathered for. It was literally and truly a *pageant*. The area and the buildings then covered by the flames were equal in a large city—say of a hundred thousand inhabitants. And yet the Fire Department was destined to achieve still further conquests, as the sequel will show.

Unward except the scene of flame, fearfully consuming everything which it reached, and that they in its path, but not only did the flames march forward and eastward, but they also made slow but sure progress southward, breaching many of the great residences on Wales and Michigan streets, and all the other buildings located between Van Buren and the main river, in the South Division. Among the most prominent structures destroyed within this area besides dwellings, were the following: the Armory, the Gas Works, the Valachi school, Methodist church, the St. Paul's church, the First and Second Presbyterian, the New Jerusalem, the James Adams, Massasoit, City, Nevada, and Clifton Hotels, the Chamber of Commerce, the Court House and Jail, (which contained the officers and records of all the city officials) the four principal theatres, the Grand Opera House, McVicker's Theatre, Col. Woodstock, the Hotel, the Michigan Central and Union Depots, all the banks in the city except the Western one, the Mercantile and Crosby's Banks, several bridges and churches, and all the passenger depots in the city except the America office which is located in the West Division.

Would to Heaven we could say that the holocaust of flames ceased even with this long catalogue. But alas, not even the main river proved a barrier to the devouring element. The glowing cinders borne by the fierce gale, landed among the stream and lodged among the parched pine roots and trees which no power within the walls of ash-covered or charred-up banks. And then commenced the dreadful ordeal in the North Division. The firemen were at the horses' head in vain. They were powerless to prevent the spread of the flames, and ere long, at about three o'clock, time they broke out on that side, the conflagration became general. For a long time, the principal scene of the fire in that Division was between North Clark street and the Lake, but by nine o'clock this morning the flames had spread into other localities, and at noon the whole North Side seemed to be in flames. At this moment, to specify many of the more prominent and curious scenes in that Division which were involved in the ruin; but the most of our readers will comprehend the magnitude of the havoc when we state that the whole North Side is in ruins. Starting first from the river, the flames have been rapidly outrunning every fire-extinguisher and population of the city till at last they have reached the P. M. the entire area, from the river to the Lake Park, and from the river to the Lake, the whole of the third flame and smoke. Of course this includes scores of acres of dwellings, churches, schools, stores, shops, and manufactures, several hotels, a number of the largest and most magnificent buildings in the city, several railroad depots, Rush Medical College, the North Side Gas Works, and many other buildings and institutions in a public calamity. And, worse of all, the City was



# THE CHICAGO EVENING POST.

ter Works are destroyed, or so nearly so that the supply of water is entirely cut off. This is the most appalling feature of the whole catastrophe, and will may it give rise to grave disorders in the whole conflagration will, when ended, leave a dozen buildings untouched in the city limits. Should the wind continue to blow from the westerly direction, it is not likely that the flames will stop here, further than the point it has now reached. But should the wind change into the northwest, as it is likely to do, as we mention the whole West Division must inevitably share the fate of the South and North divisions. Should another conflagration break out in the western portion of the city, the consequences will be equally disastrous. It is to be hoped that every man, woman and child in the city will use the utmost care in all matters pertaining to fire, and see that another conflagration does not break out at this critical hour, when the fire department is used up, and no water is to be had. Let every one become a self-constituted vigilance committee, to guard against further disaster.

We cannot now occupy further time and space in giving the best-reading details of this appalling disaster.

We hasten to print for the facts above given, respecting others for the future. We must add, however, that before the city was cut off by the fire, the communication with the other world, dispatches were sent to Milwaukee, Indianapolis and Detroit for aid, and from these cities have come fire engines, policemen and other means of assistance, combined with our local forces, are utterly powerless to stay the devastating march of the destroying element. As for the West Division, distant sounds like distant thunder greet our ears—they are the noise of exploding powder magazines used for destroying costly buildings in the way of checking the onward march of fire. Fie! the sun is obscured from view by thick, stifling smoke arising from many square miles of the city, and the crowd pale sweeps by with a dismal noise, as if chanting a requiem over the grave of buried hopes and prayers. As for the burning structures more than a mile from the city, the smoke and the rain, and the terrible fire, are doing a fearful work. We pause, then, and where will this calamity end?

## The Evening Post.

CHICAGO, TUESDAY OCT. 26, 1871.

### The Great Calamity.

At this writing, Tuesday morning, the city is as full of excitement and confusion as it was yesterday, except that the conflagration is gradually subsiding, and that the fire does not change, there is ground for believing that the flames have spent themselves, and will soon die out for want of more material.

However, the danger is by no means past. A change in the direction of the wind may at any hour occur, and should it blow from the northeast, the flames still raging in the northwest portion of the North Branch would be driven across the river, and then the whole West Division must immediately go to destruction.

Then, also, this is the worst of the danger. The city is infected with a hoards of thieves, burglars and cut throats, bent on plunder, and who will not hesitate to burn, pillage and even murder, as opportunity may seem to offer to them to do so with safety. It will require the utmost vigilance on the part of the police and of all good citizens, to prevent lawlessness, and all evil persons should remember that the burning of one building in the West Division, as this crisis, will not only be most certainly involve the destruction of the whole West Division, as no water can yet be obtained for the use of the Fire Department.

The full extent of this calamity cannot be estimated. The mind is appalled at the contemplation of the immense destruction of property, and, also, at the thousands of persons suffering that it is to be the inevitable result.

In our afternoon edition of the *Evening Post* we shall give numerous additional particulars concerning the West Division, which are well known to risk an American city.

### Post Office Headquarters.

The government has temporarily located the post office in Burlington Hall, corner of State and 16th streets. Mail will be collected from the boxes that remain, and delivered into all parts of the city.

## PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, In the Providence of God, to devote will we humbly submit a terrible calamity has befallen our city, which demands of us our best efforts for the alleviation of order and the relief of the suffering, be it known that the faith and credit of the City of Chicago is hereby placed at the disposal of the necessary expenses for the relief of the suffering.

Public order will be preserved. The police and special police now being appointed will be responsible for the maintenance of the peace, and the protection of property.

The Mayor and men of the Fire Department and Health Department will act as Special Police without further authority.

The Mayor and Comptroller will give vouchers for all supplies furnished by the different Relief Committees. The headquarters of the City Government will be at the Congregational Church, corner of West Washington and Ann streets.

All persons are warned against any act tending to enlunge property. Persons caught in any depredation will be immediately arrested.

With the help of God, order and peace are hereby promised to the city.

The City Government and the committees of citizens pledge themselves to the community to protect them, and prepare the way for a restoration of public and private welfare.

It is believed the fire has spent its force and all will soon be well.

At B. MASON, Mayor.  
GEO. TAYLOR, Comptroller. (By R. B. MASON.)

CREAK T. P. HOLDEN, Pres. Com. Council.  
T. B. BROWN, Pres. Board of Police.

### Relief for the Needy.

Henry T. Blow, a wealthy merchant of St. Louis, is in this city, doing all he can for the relief of the suffering. He has a large store of food and clothing, and is doing all he can to relieve the suffering.

At B. MASON, Mayor.  
GEO. TAYLOR, Comptroller. (By R. B. MASON.)

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## Public Schools Closed.

The Public Schools will be closed till further notice is given.

By Order. F. P. RYAN, Pres.  
J. D. PICKARD, Supt.

## Temporary Residences.

Albertain White has been entrusted with the duty of erecting temporary residences for the homeless and destitute.

## Room to Rent.

A well furnished parlor, bed room, warmed, to rent without board, to rent without board. Family small. Terms reasonable. Apply at 92 Price Place, near Halsted street.

TO RENT—To a gentleman and wife or two single men, two new unfurnished front rooms, first floor, large and pleasant, with closets, etc., in a very desirable locality, and rent very reasonable. Enquire at corner of Green and Adams streets, first door on Adams.

TO RENT—Rooms suitable for housekeeping, in a desirable locality, on the West Side. None but first-class parties need apply. Enquire at No. 205 West Adams street. Rent low.

THE NEXT Issues of the Post, and all subsequent issues will be larger and better gotten up than the present one. The difficulties of the printing the issuing of this number are numerous and formidable. But we shall get our paper systematized and our form fairly organized in a day or two.

The thousands of families driven from their homes in the North Division sought safety mostly on the vacant grounds along the river, south of the railroad tracks. One or two hundred acres are now covered with furniture and bedding, clothing, and other household goods, shivering and hungry women and children, and the rain is falling on their heads. Their condition is so pitiable as to draw tears.

Headquarters. The Mayor, Police Authorities, Council, Board of Police, Commissioners and other city authorities, have established temporary headquarters in the basement of the First Congregational Church, corner of West Washington and Ann streets.

Special Policemen. Five or six hundred special policemen were sworn in last night, and in addition to the city of the degradation of being, thieves and murderers. All night long the streets were thoroughly patrolled.

During the whole of last night, the entire city was illuminated by the conflagration in the North Division, which has not yet ceased. Towards morning there was a moderate shower of rain, which helped the wind, but did not check the progress of the disaster, many of whom, exhausted and worn out, were attempting to sleep in the streets, using a few articles of hastily gathered up furniture for beds.

It is to be feared that the discomfort of this unfortunate class, the weather turned cold, and many of the homeless are shivering in a piercing blast, though the wind still blows from the same direction—Southerly.

Horrible. News has been received from the Post office that the bodies of thirty poor refugees are lying on the prairie, a few miles from the city. The unfortunate men, many of whom are women and children, died from prolonged hunger and exposure. Teams with provisions, etc., are being sent out to those who are not yet beyond the reach of aid.

The City under Martial Law. It has been received that the city is under martial law, at once, the details of the arrangement being entrusted to Lieut. Charles Sheridan. Military companies have been sent for and will come hither from Milwaukee and other cities. This move is absolutely necessary, to protect the city from the ravages of the villainous ruffians who infest it.

Personal. Dr. R. B. Noy and wife and W. F. Adam and his good son, 15 North Division.

R. T. CRANE, Pres.  
S. W. ADAMS, Supt.  
C. S. CRANE, Jr., Pres.  
S. W. ADAMS, Supt.

## THE CRANE BROS.

Northwestern Mfg. Co.,  
ESTABLISHED 1855.

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE,  
No. 10 North Jefferson St.,  
Chicago, Ill., Oct. 26, 1871.

Gentlemen:—We take this opportunity of informing you that we have recently received a large consignment which has developed the entire best portions of the North and South Division of the city.

With an ample stock on hand and an early introduction to the public, we are prepared to furnish all our customers, and we are prepared to be the first to receive the order.

Respectfully yours,  
R. T. CRANE, Pres.

E. E. RYAN & CO.,  
Insurance Agents,  
4 & 47 S. Canal St.

All persons having claims against Insurance Companies, or other corporations, can have the same adjusted at once, and on the spot.

"First Come, First Served."

## NOTICE.

COOK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS are requested to meet at Lyceum Hall, corner of Randolph and Jefferson streets, at 5 o'clock, p. m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1871. All papers please copy.

GEO. W. WAITE,  
Chairman Board of Supervisors.

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